



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Bush Administration and the Environment? “It’s the Fox Guarding the Hen House,” Lantos Says

(San Mateo, CA) – Former Vice President Al Gore’s speech today deserves close attention for its insightful observations and its indictment of the Bush Administration’s environmental record, Congressman Tom Lantos said today.

"The Administration and the Republican majority in Congress are rolling back decades of bipartisan progress on environmental protection," Lantos said. "Whether the issue is clean air, clean water, toxic waste, or public land, this Administration is the fox guarding the hen house. Al Gore has outlined some of the most alarming developments, and laid the blame squarely at the feet of those responsible."

This week, Lantos joined his Government Reform Committee colleagues in sending a letter to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham demanding full disclosure of a collaboration between oil, mining and nuclear industry lobbyists and the Department of Energy to push for passage of a mammoth energy bill that "punches holes in the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and shields oil companies from the responsibility for contaminating ground water."

Lantos noted that the Administration continues to propose opening the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to explore for oil. Just as he has steadfastly defended the California coastline for years, Lantos believes it is outrageous to drill for oil, or even to look for it, in the places that are most vulnerable, and he has voted to keep these natural treasures from being jeopardized.

As part of his diligent work to preserve our nation's natural resources, Lantos has introduced legislation to add nearly 5,000 acres of open space in California's San Mateo County to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The House National Parks Subcommittee approved this legislation late last fall. Lantos said he is committed to seeing the effort to completion in Congress this year, just as he has successfully shepherded through previous bills to expand the GGNRA.

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